

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of May 11, 2011. Claims 1, 49, 59, and 60 have been amended and claim 45 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 42-44, 46-52, 55-74, and 78-87 are currently pending. No new matter has been added.

§103 Rejections

Claims 1, 42-60, 62, and 71-77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,219,572 B1 to Young ("Young) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0163048 to Rafter et al. ("Rafter"). Claims 61 and 63-70 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young in view of Rafter and U.S. Patent Number 5,921,931 to O'Donnell et al. ("O'Donnell"). The Applicants traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 recites obtaining phase-correlated pre-injection data from the pre-injection data and phase-correlated post-injection data from the post-injection data by correlating the pre-injection data and post-injection data with a cardiac phase, wherein correlating with a cardiac phase comprises selecting a region of interest, obtaining intensity data for the region of interest in each of a plurality of frames, applying a filter based on a cardiac frequency to the intensity data, and selecting frames associated with a same cardiac phase as indicated by the filtered intensity data. None of the cited references teach or suggest the procedure for correlating with a cardiac phase recited in claim 1.

The Office Action acknowledges that Young does not teach or suggest correlating the pre-injection data and post-injection data with a cardiac phase. Office Action, p. 2. The Office Action turns to Rafter. Although Rafter does describe synchronizing ultrasonic imaging with an ECG, Rafter does not teach or suggest selecting a region of interest, obtaining intensity data for the region of interest in each of a plurality of frames, applying a filter based on a cardiac frequency to the intensity data, and selecting frames associated with a same cardiac phase as indicated by the filtered intensity data, as recited in claim 1.

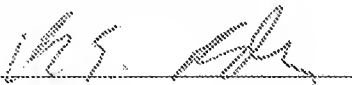
Accordingly, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 1. For at least these reasons, claim 1, as well as claims 42-44, 46-52, and 55-

Accordingly, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all of the elements of claim 1. For at least these reasons, claim 1, as well as claims 42-44, 46-52, and 55-74 which depend therefrom, is patentable over the cited references. The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of these claims.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, the Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the Applicants' representative, Bruce Black, by telephone to discuss the matter.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Bruce E Black

Registration No.: 41,622
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
745 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10151
(206) 336-5668
(212) 588-0500 (Fax)
Attorneys/Agents For Applicant